

FIRE NEAR BELLEVUE LURES A BIG CROWD

Patients Are Easily Quieted, but People Near by Fear Hospital Is Burning.

THREE BLAZES AT ONCE

One Gains Headway as Apparatus, Busy at Two Others, Is Slow in Arriving.

Three fires which started within a short time of one another last night kept busy all the fire apparatus on both East and West sides from Fourteenth to Forty-eighth street. The third, a two alarm blaze, burned almost a half hour before sufficient fire apparatus arrived to take care of it because of the two others.

The fires were at 337 and 339 East Twenty-sixth street, 150 feet from Bellevue Hospital, 10 and 12 West Twenty-second street and 37 and 39 West Twenty-fourth street. Assistant Chief Martin went to the three.

The fire near Bellevue caused a report that the big hospital was on fire, and such a large crowd gathered that police reserves from two station houses had all they could do to keep the people back.

No excitement occurred in the hospital, however, as John McHale, night superintendent, sent nurses and orderlies through the wards to reassure the patients. In the more distant wards it was not even known there was a fire. Those on the Twenty-sixth street side, of course, heard the noise of the engines and of the hose trucks that came from the fireboats.

The East Twenty-sixth street fire started on the third floor of the four-story factory building and was seen in the elevator shaft by the manager of a laundry on the ground floor. Second alarm was turned in as soon as firemen arrived, bringing assistant Chief Martin and three fireboats. The upper floors are occupied by the Universal Paper Box company and the Real Doll Company.

While the police held the crowd in check, the firemen fought the fire from the upper floors and roofs of adjacent buildings and it was more than half an hour before they got it under control. At one time flames leaped across to the roof of 34 East Twenty-seventh street, a building occupied by a printing concern, but the firemen were able to prevent it from gaining a foothold. The building scorched in West Twenty-second street is a four story loft. Fire started there on the top floor, occupied by J. Wolfkind, a furrier. Chief Martin left the Bellevue blaze, which was getting under control, to direct the fighting there, and found that while it did not appear to be a big fire it was stubborn and gave the firemen much trouble.

While this fire was in progress, two alarms were turned in for the fire in a five story loft in West Twenty-fourth street. Lack of apparatus permitted the fire to spread until it had involved the whole building.

A basement fire which sent choking smoke into the hallways caused the temporary eviction of forty families in the six story tenement building at 109 Henry street early yesterday. Police Sergeant Patrick J. Brophy of the Oak street station, who rushed into the house while Patrolman William E. Riley was turning in an alarm, awakened all the tenants. They got out of bed and crowded to the fire escapes, some becoming panic stricken. They were rescued by firemen who ran up ladders. Brophy continued to make a thorough search of the building, and on the third floor found Gertrude Kleinhaus, 26, overcome from smoke in her apartment. He carried her to the street and there she was attended and recovered. The others got out unhurt.

The fire burned through the basement, which is used as a storeroom by a furniture dealer, and flames shot through the flooring in a butcher shop and a tailor shop above. The fire was stopped at that point, with damage of about \$2,000.

Three girls employed in the Hudson Fur Company, 230 Sixth avenue, fought with bottles of spring water a fire which started in the basement of the building, keeping up their efforts until firemen arrived. The girls were Gussie Fullerton, Edna Kwartler and Lottie Sloanman. They were at work on the first floor when smoke filtered through cracks in the flooring. They went into the basement and with other girls escaped from the building. Smoke had worked into the Paris Millinery Company, 218 Sixth avenue, before the fire was checked. The damage was slight.

FIRE PUTS GREENWICH IN TOTAL DARKNESS

Electric Wires Down—Loss About \$100,000.

Greenwich, Conn., was thrown into total darkness for several hours last night by a fire which destroyed Red Men's Hall, the principal assembly room of the village, and damaged adjoining structures, bringing down all electric wires. Fire apparatus from Portchester and East Portchester aided the Greenwich firemen, but water pressure was poor and the firemen fought under difficulties. The loss was estimated at from \$75,000 to \$100,000. The blaze started in the basement of a three story wooden building at Greenwich avenue and Lewis street, when a boiler exploded, and spread rapidly. Buildings in the neighborhood were made uninhabitable by smoke and a number of families were temporarily homeless. Greenwich avenue is the main thoroughfare of the town.

OPERATE ON COBRA'S EYE AFTER DIFFICULT TUSSLE

Curator Ditmars Finally Manages to Get Snake's Head in Net and Holds Him on Window Sill While Growth Is Plucked From Optic.

The old king cobra up in the reptile house of the New York Zoological Park isn't going to have his automobile ride after all. Citizens of The Bronx who were dreading the day when Curator Ditmars should ride forth with the wickedest serpent in the world, fretting himself in a cage tied on the hood of the machine, may forget their fears. Until yesterday it seemed as if a long, chilling ride would be the only possible approach to an operation on the snake's bad eye. Freeze him, then fix him, was the plan.

Yesterday Mr. Ditmars thought of a better one. When he arrived at the reptile house in the morning the snake was in fine fettle. He was coming into his new skin, he was getting fat on a handsome diet of live water snakes and black snakes. To get a trifle mixed, he was feeling his oats, splashing around in his private pool, rearing up six of

his thirteen feet, and glaring through the glass at his visitors. "I would take more than an automobile to soothe the little dear," the curator thought to himself. The cobra cocked his one good eye, and his hood began to flatten out.

Mr. Ditmars called for Jack Toomey, his right hand man and headkeeper at the Zoo. Together they rigged up a net on a pole—the sort of net you would use to catch butterflies if the butterflies were flying bobcats. The net had a strong, coarse mesh, and the pole was stout as a hickory limb. They opened the door of the cobra's cage and invited him to crawl into the head of the net. The cobra couldn't see it at all at first. He got terribly angry as they poked at him with a stick from behind. He bared his fangs and he struck in their direction time and again, but they always shut the door too soon. But curiosity, which betrays all animals sooner or later, grew too strong. He poked his head into the ring and

began working his way into the net. Finally he got all tangled up in it, trying vainly to push his face through the mesh. When he was well involved in it Mr. Ditmars stepped into the cage and took hold of him just behind the head. A minute later the cobra's head was on the window sill in the passageway and a pair of tweezers were plucking the skin covering from his eye.

POLICE HAVE LITTLE HOPE IN TORSO PUZZLE

Although the investigation of the murder of the young woman whose torso was found in a pond in Long Island City, October 22, is being continued, whittled by the finding of two legs last Tuesday in Van Cortlandt Park, detectives yesterday held out little hope that the mystery would be solved.

Apparently, the detectives of the Hunter's Point precinct, Long Island City, believe the other parts of the body have been scattered at other distant points. These may be found, and with them clues that may trace the crime to the murderer, which is the only prospect now existing that the slayer will ever be known. The discovery of the legs has not particularly aided the police.

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